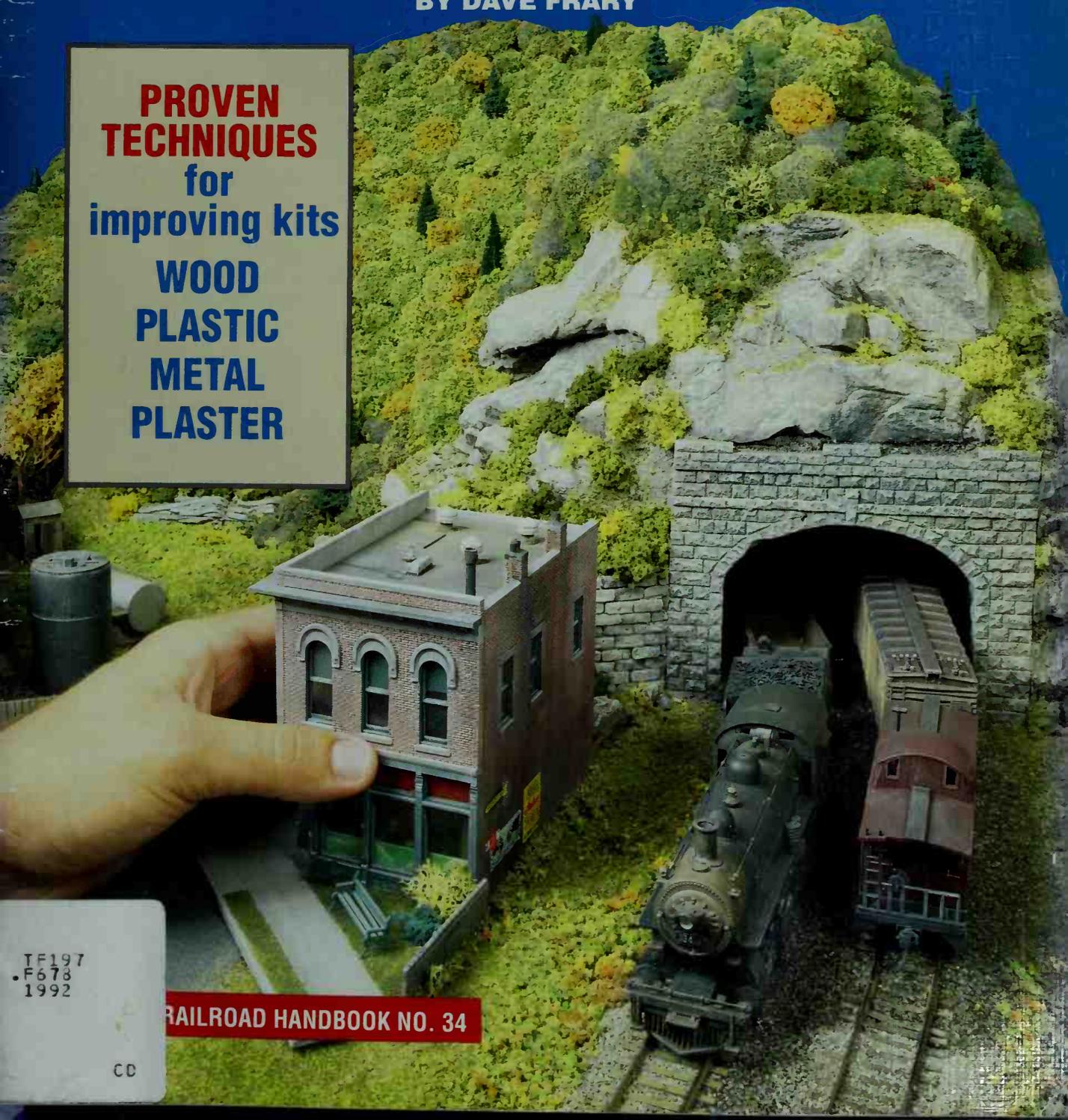


222 TIPS FOR BUILDING MODEL RAILROAD STRUCTURES

BY DAVE FRARY

**PROVEN
TECHNIQUES**
for
improving kits
**WOOD
PLASTIC
METAL
PLASTER**



TF197
F678
1992

RAILROAD HANDBOOK NO. 34



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After almost 35 years of active model railroading Dave Frary finds his enthusiasm for the hobby remains as strong as ever. Dave is best known for articles co-authored with Kalmbach editor Bob Hayden and for hundreds of photos that have appeared in and on the covers of *MODEL RAILROADER*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *CLASSIC TOY TRAINS*, *GREAT MODEL RAILROADS*, and many other publications. Several of Dave's best photos appear in the Kalmbach book, *A TREASURY OF MODEL RAILROAD PHOTOS*.

His popular HO_n2¹/₂ layout, the Carrabasset & Dead River Ry., had large portions destroyed by a flood several years ago. Dave is now working on plans and models for his seventh layout, based upon the Maine seacoast.

A native of the Boston area, Dave has worked as a photographer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as an audiovisual technician, and as an Apple computer repairman. All Dave's time is now divided between Blue Ribbon Models and lobster fishing. His other interests include fishing, cooking, and travel.

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PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

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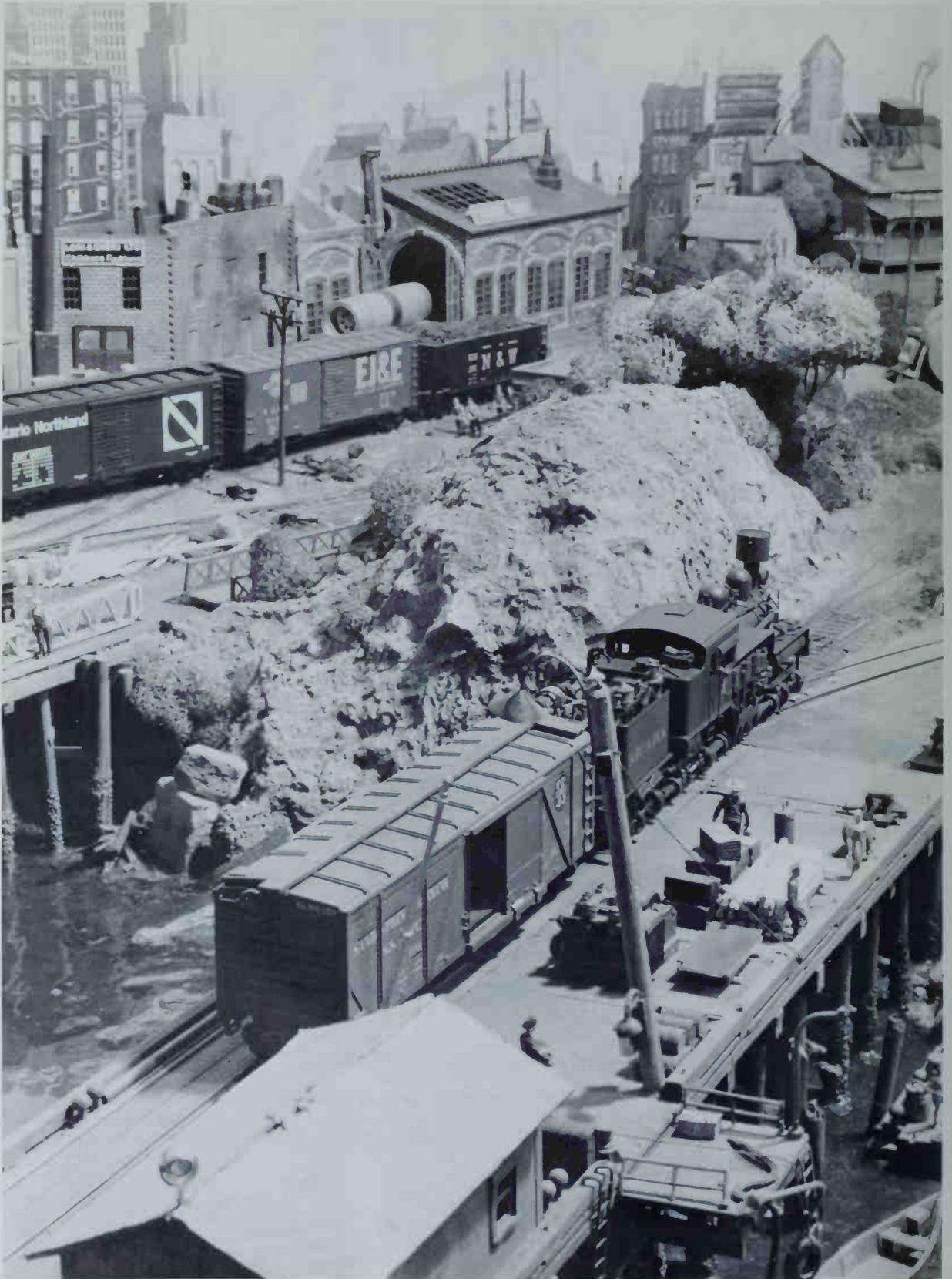
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Introduction

THIS BOOK IS a collection of my favorite structure-building tips and modeling techniques, techniques developed during more than 30 years of craftsman kit building. Some of the tips will help you as you start a modeling project; others will help you through complicated building steps. And many others provide painting, finishing, and detailing techniques to help you show off all your hard work to best advantage.

GETTING STARTED WITH CRAFTSMAN KITS

Plastic kits can provide every nut and bolt — even simulated wood grain — but they can't provide the invisible item that comes in the box with most craftsman kits: real modeling satisfaction. That's exactly what craftsman kits are about.

If you're reading this book you've probably already sampled craftsman-type kits. If you haven't, these slightly more complex kits will open a whole new world of modeling pleasure for you. There's a lot of gratification in taking a box full of wood sticks, metal or plastic castings, cardboard, and sundry other materials and assembling them into an attractive model — one that won't fit back in the box!

Even if you don't have the space (or the urge) to build a layout right now, you can have a lot of fun and "bank time," by building a closet full of craftsman structures, saving them until the day when you can plunk them down on your layout.

YOUR FIRST CRAFTSMAN STRUCTURE

The first craftsman kit you build shouldn't be your largest or most expensive. Instead, choose a small project, and if you're in the mood for advice, choose the smallest Campbell kit that you like. The reason for this is the instructions. Campbell instructions have been among the best craftsman kit directions for as long as I can remember. They will get you going and keep you going with out undue beginner frustration.

After you've completed a simple Campbell kit move on to a bigger project, one that will continue building your confidence and introduce you to more advanced construction and finishing techniques. Every craftsman kit will teach you new techniques — soon you'll be a pro, making up and refining your

own techniques as you continue to build. Before long, I'll be reading your book!

JUST A LITTLE MODELING PHILOSOPHY

As you build more and more craftsman-type kits you'll develop a personal set of rules to apply to all your structures. Everybody has a different philosophy, just as everyone builds kits differently. The rules I follow result from a desire to build complete scenes that capture the look and feel of prototype scenes: Often my models are more caricature than board-by-board copies of the real thing. My nine rules are:

- ❶ Don't be afraid to depart from the instructions when you've got a good reason to do so
- ❷ Model only what you can see
- ❸ Don't spend time on interior detail except window curtains and shades
- ❹ Structure models don't have to be exact
- ❺ Think of your models in terms of the scenes they will be part of, not as individual buildings
- ❻ Don't worry if everything doesn't turn out perfect
- ❼ Don't use same set of techniques on every structure
- ❽ Weather everything (but not the same way)
- ❾ Above all, try to capture the flavor of the structure and its surroundings.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

I've organized and indexed this book so it can serve as your general kit-building reference. It's a tool to help you build models better, and that means it's not meant to be read from cover to cover like a novel. Instead, it's a book for thumbing and browsing and ready reference. For example, if you're starting a wood kit with plastic doors and windows and the instructions tell you to paint the windows first, look up "Window and door castings" and "Painting plastic" in the index, and see if you can use some of my techniques to make the job easier.

I hope you enjoy this book — and I hope you'll use it to have more fun building structures.

DAVE

Dave Frary

(Left) Pete Laier's HO Arcadia Northern featured a superb mix of craftsman-type and plastic structures, as well as a healthy dollop of eye-catching waterfront atmosphere.